

P-38: School District 81 (Spokane) Tobacco Policies and Procedures Workgroup

Venue: Schools

Goal: Preventing Initiation of Tobacco Use

Sponsoring Organization: ESD 101 (Spokane Region)

Abstract: ESD 101, together with district school administrators, school resources officers, students and community members worked together to create tobacco policies and procedures for School District 81. The planning committee reviewed model policies and procedures, and created flow charts, referral forms, a new policy and procedures. The policy covered use, possession, and sale or giving away of tobacco on all school property, at school sponsored events, school buses and property located adjacent to school campuses. The school board passed the policy, and school staff was trained in the policy. ESD 101 set up diversion classes for policy offenders. The referral form that is issued for offenses looks similar to a regular law enforcement ticket. The school resource officers (SRO) worked with the police department who helped to enforce the policy by issuing real tickets if students failed to attend diversion or cessation classes as directed. ESD 101 has also trained at least one representative from each middle school and high school in the END youth cessation program. Since the initiation of the policy, the number of students attending diversion classes has tripled.

Recommendations: Once policies and procedures are put in place they must be consistently enforced. If one student gets away without follow up, it can ruin the whole policy. Make sure there are adequate resources and procedures to follow through with strengthened policies to promote tobacco-free environments.

Contact for more information:

Tricia Hughes

ESD 101

509-789-3591

thughes@esd101.net